

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02858 101358Z

61
ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 /089 W
----- 072899

R 101032Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8755
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2858

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, TU, IZ, IR
SUBJ: TURKISH POLICY ON KURDISH REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 74981 (B) ANKARA 2717 (C) ANKARA 2528
(D) ANKARA 2469 (E) ANKARA 8356 OF OCTOBER 23, 1974 (NOTAL)

1. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT POLICY REGARDING KURDISH REFUGEES (I.E., TO REFUSE PERMISSION TO KURDISH GROUPS TO ENTER TURKEY EITHER FOR ASYLUM OR FOR TRANSIT TO IRAN) WAS ANNOUNCED BY THEN PRIMIN SADI IRMAK MARCH 26 (REF D). HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT TURKEY IS NOT RPT NOT IN VIOLATION OF THE BASIC PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AS ENUMERATED IN PARA 3, REF A. SPECIFICALLY, IN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WE HAVE FOUND NO RPT NO EVIDENCE WHICH SUGGESTS THAT TURKEY HAS ENGAGED IN THE FORCEFUL REPATRIATION OF KURDISH REFUGEES INTO IRAQ.

2. THE ANKARA REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNHCR TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 8 THAT HE AND TWO COLLEAGUES FROM THE GENEVA OFFICE OF THE UNHCR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02858 101358Z

RECENTLY MADE A DEMARCHE TO THE TURKISH MFA ON BEHALF OF THE

KURDISH REFUGEES, SEEKING PERMISSION FOR THEM TO ENTER TURKEY AT ONE OR TWO BORDER--CROSSING POINTS FOR PURPOSES OF TRANSIT TO IRAN. IN RETURN, THE UN OFFERED TO PROVIDE WHATEVER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE PASSAGE. HOWEVER, UNHCR REP SAID, THE TIMING OF THE DEMARCHE WAS UNPROPITIOUS, SINCE THE PARLIAMENT WAS DEBATING (MARCH 27-28) THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF MARTIAL LAW IN FOUR PROVINCES IN EASTERN TURKEY NEAR THE IRAQI BORDER (REF C). UNHCR REP SAID HE HAD NOT RPT NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE TURKS, AND HE DOUBTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE UNLESS A "MULTILATERAL" APPROACH WERE MADE TO THE GOT.

3. REGARDING A GROUP OF ROUGHLY 3500 KURDS WHO ENTERED TURKEY IN AUTUMN 1974 AND LATER RETURNED TO IRAQ (REF E), UNHCR REP SAID HE HAD SEEN "CONVINCING" EVIDENCE THAT THE GROUP INVOLVED WERE SUPPORTERS OF THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT, WHO TEMPORARILY LEFT KURDISH-CONTROLLED AREAS IN IRAQ, BUT LATER RETURNED VOLUNTARILY AFTER THE BARZANI FORCES HAD BEEN CLEARED OUT BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

4. ALSO, DUTCH EMBOFF TOLD US EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD SIMILARLY MADE A DEMARCHE TO THE MFA IN SUPPORT OF THE UNHCR'S EFFORTS TO GET PERMISSION FOR KURDISH REFUGEES TO TRANSIT TURKEY ENROUTE TO IRAN. HOWEVER, AN MFA OFFICER HAD REPLIED THAT PERMISSION WAS BEING DENIED ON TWO GROUNDS: (A) AFTER THE APRIL 1 EXPIRATION OF THE AMNESTY PERIOD FOR THOSE WHO WANTED TO LEAVE IRAQ, IT WAS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT WOULD PERMIT ANY MORE KURDS TO LEAVE, AND (B) WEATHER CONDITIONS IN EASTERN TURKEY MADE TRANSIT AT THE PRESENT TIME A PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITY.

5. COMMENT: TURKISH POLICY ON KURDISH REFUGEES COULD BECOME A POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES. HOWEVER, THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY COMMITTED TO MAINTAIN THE POLICY ANNOUNCED BY THE IRMAK GOVERNMENT, AND COULD PREEMPT THE ISSUE BY GIVING PERMISSION FOR KURDISH REFUGEES TO TRANSIT TURKISH TERRITORY. MEANWHILE, THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO REVISE THE DECISION TO REFUSE ENTRY TO THE KURDS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 02858 101358Z

(REF B). ALSO, RPP DEPUTY MIKAIL ILCIN (HAKKARI) HAS SENT MESSAGES TO THE TURKISH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS URGING THAT RELIEF BE EXTENDED TO BARZANI FORCES WHO HAVE TAKEN SHELTER IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS NEAR THE TURKISH FRONTIER. THE RPP REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO PROPOSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A PARLIAMENTARY MOTION FAVORING A REVISION OF THE GOT'S POLICY ON KURDISH REFUGEES.

MACOMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY COMPLIANCE, REFUGEE RELIEF, HUMAN RIGHTS, KURDS, EVACUATION PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA02858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750125-1004
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750464/aaaacgys.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 74981, 75 ANKARA 2717, 75 ANKARA 2528
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH POLICY ON KURDISH REFUGEES
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, TU, IZ, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006